

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method of printing on a press,
providing a printing run length of said press to be
increased with a factor of at least 5 versus a reference
run length, making use therefore of a lithographic printing
plate, said method comprising the steps of:
- image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive
imaging element, said element being optionally present on
the press before starting said image-wise exposing step to
infrared light, wherein said element comprises, on a
lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface thereupon, an
image-forming layer including hydrophobic thermoplastic
polymer particles and a hydrophilic polymer binder, and,
optionally, an infrared absorbing compound, wherein said
hydrophobic polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of
nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the
range from 0.015 to 0.15 μm , ~~being a range wherein said
increased run length is provided for the same reduction of
same average particle size diameters of said hydrophobic
polymer particles and of reference hydrophobic polymer
particles providing said reference run length and wherein~~

said reference run length utilizes reference particles are containing no or less than 0.1 wt % of nitrogen,
- developing the image-wise exposed imaging element by mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and applying an aqueous dampening liquid ~~and/or~~ ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, starting printing up to said increased run length.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic polymer particles ~~containing~~ contain structural chemical groups selected from the group consisting of amide, urethane, methacrylonitrile, crotonitrile, vinylidene cyanide, isocytosine, pyrrolidone, piperazine, cyanomethyl, cyanoethyl, cyanopropyl, cyanoaryl, cyanoacrylate, primary amines, mono- or di- n-alkyl substituted amines, urea, imide, imine, triazine, sulfonamide, onium, melamine, pyrimidine, ureido-pyrimidone, pyridine, barbiturate, isocyanurate or imidazole.

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic polymer binder is a water-soluble, water-dispersable, alkali-dispersable or alkali-soluble polymer.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles consist of a ~~homopolymer or~~ copolymer of monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene, tert.-butylstyrene, methylmethacrylate, peramethylstyrene, methacrylonitrile, N-alkyl substituted acrylamides, N-alkyl substituted methacrylamides and maleimides.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic ~~thermoplastic~~ thermoplastic polymer particles are present in the image forming layer in an amount of at least 50 wt%.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising a second hydrophilic polymer binder in a layer adjacent to said image forming layer.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein
the infrared absorbing compound is an anionic infrared
cyanine dye absorbing infrared radiation in the wavelength
range from 800 to 1100 nm and wherein the infrared
absorbing compound is present in said image forming layer
or in a layer adjacent thereto.
8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein
the hydrophilic surface is a lithographic surface, present
on a metal support, being a plate or a print cylinder.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (currently amended) Method of printing on a press, said
method comprising the steps of:
image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive
lithographic printing plate, wherein said lithographic
printing plate comprises:
a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface
thereupon, an image-forming layer including
hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles and a

hydrophilic polymer binder, and, an infrared absorbing compound, wherein said hydrophobic polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the range from 0.015 to 0.15 μm , developing the image-wise exposed printing plate by mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and applying an aqueous dampening liquid ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, and printing.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said lithographic printing plate is present on said press prior to said image-wise exposing.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16.(currently amended) Method of printing on a press, said
method comprising the steps of:
image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive
lithographic printing plate, wherein said lithographic
printing plate comprises:
a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface
thereupon, an image-forming layer including
hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles and a
hydrophilic polymer binder, and, an infrared
absorbing compound, wherein said hydrophobic
polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of
nitrogen and have an average particle size
diameter in the range from 0.015 to 0.15 μ m,
developing the image-wise exposed imaging element by
mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press
and applying an aqueous ink to said imaging element
while rotating said print cylinder, and
printing;
with the proviso that said printing is at least 5 times longer
than printing when said hydrophobic polymer particles
contain less than 0.1 wt% nitrogen and have an average

particle diameter more than 0.15 μm ~~The method of claim 15~~
wherein said lithographic printing plate is present on said
press prior to said image-wise exposing.

17. (canceled)